

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and have not yet been examined. Claims 1-20 have been amended to correct certain formalities. Claims 21-32 have been added. These claims are supported by the application as originally filed. Consideration and allowance of Claims 1-32 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A [Strengthening] strengthening layer for composites comprising a resin to be formed by means of a vacuum technique, [which layer substantially consists of] comprising:

a strengthening material; and

[for a smaller part] a plurality of transport threads of substantially round and substantially form-retaining cross-section for guiding the resin therealong[, which] wherein said threads lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport.

2. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1[, characterized in that] wherein the transport threads lie in the same plane as the rest of the strengthening material.

3. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 1 [or 2, characterized in that] wherein the transport threads lie against one or both sides of the strengthening layer.

4. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-3, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the strengthening material takes at least partly the form of endless threads lying substantially parallel adjacently of each other [, or multifilaments].

5. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they consist of] said threads comprise at least two [or more] twined single threads.

6. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they consist of] said threads comprise torsional single threads.

7. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they consist of] said threads further comprise a coating applied to [the whole or partial surface of the thread] at least a partial surface of the thread.

8. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 7 [, characterized in that] wherein the coating is a glue.

9. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they] said threads are monofilament threads.

10. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they] said threads are provided with a sheath.

11. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 10 [, characterized in that] wherein the sheath [consists of] comprises a knit.

12. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 10 [, characterized in that] wherein the sheath [consists of] comprises a braiding.

13. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [claims 1-4, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they] said threads form part of a structure of threads which are mutually connected by a binding such that the round form of the transport threads [cannot be distorted, or hardly so] is substantially form-retaining during the vacuum technique.

14. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 13 [, characterized in that] wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they] said threads form part of a gauze.

15. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in claim 13 [, characterized in that] wherein the form-retention of the transport threads is achieved in that [they] said threads form part of a web manufactured according to the Rachel technique.

16. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the transport threads are formed from at least one of glass, carbon, kevlar, flax, other vegetable [or], synthetic fibres [or] and combinations thereof.

17. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the strengthening material is formed from at least one of glass, kevlar, flax, other vegetable [or], synthetic fibres [or] and combinations thereof.

18. (Amended) The [Strengthening] strengthening layer as claimed in [any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that] claim 1 wherein the transport threads are manufactured from at least one of the same [material] materials as the strengthening material [of which the rest of the layer consists].

19. (Amended) [Assembly of strengthening layers,] A method of forming a resin composite by means of a vacuum technique, comprising [at least one strengthening layer as claimed in any of the foregoing claims] providing at least one strengthening layer comprising a plurality of transport threads of substantially round and substantially form-retaining cross-section for guiding the resin therealong, orienting the strengthening layer so that said threads lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport, and applying the resin to the strengthening layer under vacuum to form the composite.

20. (Amended) A [Composite] composite [consisting of at least one layer] formed by means of a vacuum technique, comprising at least one strengthening layer embedded in resin, [as

claimed in claims 1-18 or an assembly as claimed in claim 19] wherein said strengthening layer comprises a plurality of transport threads of substantially round and substantially form-retaining cross-section for guiding the resin therealong, and wherein said threads lie substantially in the direction of the resin transport.

New Claims 21-32 have been added.

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